(b) the details of funds allocated/used by different States during the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIA): (a) This Ministry does not have any scheme for providing loans to urban professional graduates/ post graduates for setting up independent professional units. However, a Centrally Sponsored Programme called Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is being implemented by this Ministry which seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or under employed urban poor living below poverty line and educated upto 9th standard for setting up self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Criteria to define Poverty Line

†85. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items published in daily 'Observer' dated 27th August, 1999 under the caption "Criteria to define poverty line need modification";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that there is a need for modification in the norms regarding identification of the people living below poverty line; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As ascertained from the Planning Commission, the Criteria to identify the people living below poverty line was recently modified, as per the new official methodology, and is based on the State specific poverty lines using State-specific price indices and inter-State prices differential. There is no proposal to modify the norms of defining poverty line since it is based on the recommendations of the leading experts in the country. However, the poverty line at the national and State levels are continuously reviewed for changes in prices.

Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes in N.E. Region

86. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance released for urban employment and poverty alleviation programmes in the North East Region during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the amount to be released during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the number of beneficiaries from this programme; State-wise?

The Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIA): (a) & (b) This Ministry was implementing Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) during the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97). These three Schemes have been replaed by a unified programme called the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) with effect from 1.12.1997. Central funds released and physical progress made under NRY, UBSP and PMIUPEP during 8th Five Year Plan to N.E. State are given in Annexure *[See Appendix 188, Annexure no. 2].* Central funds released and physical progress made under SJSRY during 9th Five Year Plan by N.E. States so far are given in statement. *{See* below) This is as per the reports of the respective State Governments.